NOTICE OF COMPLETION & ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT TRANSMITTAL

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, PO Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613

SCH # _____

Project Title: Site 6, T-Range Open Burn Facility, China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station
Lead Agency: California Department of Toxic Substances Control — Contact Person: Laurie Racca
Street Address: 8800 California Center Drive — Phone: (916) 255-3668
City: Sacramento — Zip Code: 95826 — County: Sacramento

Project Location:
County: San Bernardino — City/Nearest Community: China Lake NAWS and City of Ridgecrest (Kern County)
Cross Streets: Tare Access Road, within the China Lake NAWS North Range, approximately 8 miles northeast of the City of Ridgecrest — Zip Code: 93555 — Total Acres: 35
Assessor's Parcel No: NA — Section: _____ — Twp: _____ — Range: _____ — Base: _____
Within 2 miles: State Hwy #: NA — Waterways: NA
Airports: NA — Railways: NA — Schools: NA

Document Type:

CEQA: ☐ NOP ☐ Early Cons ☒ Neg Dec ☐ Draft EIR ☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR (Prior SCH No.) _____ ☐ Other _____
NEPA: ☐ NOI ☐ EA ☐ Draft EIS ☐ FONSI
Other: ☐ Joint Document ☐ Final Document ☐ Other _____

Action Type:

☐ General Plan Update ☐ General Plan Amendment ☐ General Plan Element ☐ Community Plan ☐ Specific Plan
☐ Master Plan ☐ Planned Unit Development ☐ Site Plan ☐ Rezone
☐ Prezone ☐ Use Permit ☐ Land Division (subdivision) ☒ Other: Hazardous Waste Remedial Action
(Hazardous Waste Removal Action, Parcel Map, Tract Map, etc.)
☐ Annexation ☐ Redevelopment ☐ Costal Permit

Development Type:

☐ Residential: *Units* _____ *Acres* _____
☐ Office: *Sq. ft.* _____ *Acres* _____ *Employees* _____
☐ Commercial: *Sq. ft.* _____ *Acres* _____ *Employees* _____
☐ Industrial: *Sq. ft.* _____ *Acres* _____ *Employees* _____
☐ Educational: _____
☐ Recreational: _____

☐ Water Facilities: *Type:* _____ *MGD:* _____
☐ Transportation: *Type:* _____
☐ Mining: *Mineral:* _____
☐ Power: *Type:* _____ Watts: _____
☐ Waste Treatment: *Type:* _____
☐ Hazardous Waste: *Type:* _____
☐ Other: _____

Funding (approx.): Federal $ _____ State $ _____ Total $ _____

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

☒ Aesthetic/Visual
☒ Agricultural Land
☒ Air Quality
☒ Noise
☐ Coastal Zone
☐ Drainage/Absorption
☐ Economic/Jobs
☐ Fiscal
☒ Flood Plain/Flooding
☐ Forest Land/Fire Hazard
☒ Geologic/Seismic
☒ Minerals
☐ Solid Waste
☒ Toxic/Hazardous
☒ Public Services/Facilities
☒ Recreation/Parks
☐ Schools/Universities
☐ Septic Systems
☐ Sewer Capacity
☒ Wildlife
☐ Growth Inducing
☒ Landuse
☒ Traffic/Circulation
☒ Vegetation
☒ Water Quality
☒ Water Supply/Groundwater
☒ Wetland/Riparian
☒ Archeological/Historical
☒ Population/Housing Balance
☒ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading
☒ Cumulative Effects
☐ Other: _____

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation: Military/Industrial

Project Description: Site 6, T-Range Open Burn Facility, Remedial Action Plan/Record of Decision. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is proposing to approve the feasibility study and the Navy's preferred remedial alternative for Site 6 (the engineered alternative cap). The selected remedy will be documented in a Record of Decision/Remedial Action Plan. The selected remedy and remedial design will amend the existing approved Closure Plan for the Site 6 T-Range Open Burn facility through a Class 2 modification for the China Lake NAWS hazardous waste facility permit. Approval of the feasibility study and the preferred remedy by DTSC is pursuant to the requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), and Chapter 6.8, Division 20 of the California Health and Safety Code. Site 6 served as an open-burn facility from 1946 to 1991 and was operated by the Ordnance Systems Department at NAWS China Lake. Site 6 covers approximately 35 acres of disturbed ground with six distinct disposal areas (Areas 1 through 6) that include pits, trenches, and aboveground tanks used for open burning of waste. The proposed action for Site 6 consists of capping the contaminants at Areas 1 and 3 in place using an engineered alternative cap. Native soil from the site will be used to construct the cap in place of specialized construction materials such as clay soils and liners. The miscellaneous surface debris from the other four areas at Site 6 will be consolidated within the partially open trenches at Areas 1 and 3 prior to capping. Land use controls will be put into place which will specify that no buildings or residences can be constructed at the site, and will also identify the need for maintenance of the cap.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist:

- ☒ **Resources Agency**
- ☐ Boating / Waterways
- ☐ Coastal Commission
- ☐ Costal Conservancy
- ☐ Colorado River Board
- ☐ Conservation
- ☒ Fish & Game
- ☐ Forestry & Fire Protection
- ☒ Office of Historic Preservation
- ☐ Parks & Recreation
- ☐ Reclamation Board
- ☐ SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- ☐ Water Resources (DWR)

Business, Transportation & Housing

- ☐ Aeronautics
- ☒ California Highway Patrol
- ☒ Caltrans District # 6 and 8
- ☐ Department of Transportation Planning (headquarters)
- ☐ Housing and Community Development

- ☐ **Food and Agriculture**

Health & Welfare

- ☐ Health Services

State & Consumer Services

- ☐ General Services
- ☐ OLA (Schools)

Environmental Protection Agency

- ☒ Air Resources Board
- ☐ California Waste Management Board
- ☐ SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
- ☐ SWRCB: Delta Unit
- ☐ SWRCB: Water Quality
- ☐ SWRCB: Water Rights
- ☒ Regional WQCB # 6 Lahonton (Victorville Office)

Youth & Adult Corrections

- ☐ Corrections

Independent Commissions & Offices

- ☐ Energy Commission
- ☒ Native American Heritage Commission
- ☐ Public Utilities Commission
- ☐ Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
- ☐ State Lands Commission
- ☐ Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
- ☐ Other:

Public Review Period (to be filled out by lead agency)

Starting Date June 16, 2006 Ending Date July 17, 2006

State of California – California Environmental Protection Agency

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Laurie Racca

Signature of Lead Agency Representative

6/8/2006

Date

Laurie Racca	Project Manager	(916) 255-3668
Representative's Name	Representative's Title	Phone #

FOR SCH USE ONLY			
Date Received at SCH:		Applicant:	
Date Review Starts:		Consultant:	
Date to Agencies:		Contact Phone #:	( )
Clearance Date:		Address:	
Notes:			

** NOTE: Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If SCH number already exists for a project (e.g., from a Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please enter the SCH number in the box located in upper right corner of this document.*

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Submitting: ☒ **Draft**
☐ **Final**
☒ **Mitigated Negative Declaration**

Project Title: Site 6, T-Range Open Burn Facility

State Clearinghouse Number: _____

Contact Person: Laurie Racca Phone # (916) 255-3668

Project Location (*Include County*):

China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS), San Bernardino County, California

Project Description:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is proposing to approve the Record of Decision/Remedial Action Plan (ROD/RAP) for Site 6 at the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS). Site 6 is contaminated with propellant, explosive and pyrotechnic wastes (PEP) and metals. The RAP/ROD proposes to implement the Navy's preferred remedial alternative for Site 6 which includes capping the contaminants at Areas 1 and 3 in place using an engineered alternative cap. Soil from existing borrow pits within the boundaries of the China Lake NAWS will be used to construct the cap. The miscellaneous surface debris from the other four areas at Site 6 will be consolidated within the partially open trenches at Areas 1 and 3 prior to capping. Land use controls will be put into place which will specify that no buildings or residences can be constructed at the site, and will also identify the need for maintenance of the cap. It is anticipated that the construction activities will last approximately 8 weeks.

Approval of the RAP/ROD will also amend the existing approved Closure Plan for the Site 6 T-Range Open Burn facility through a class 2 modification for the China Lake NAWS hazardous waste facility permit.

Approval of the RAP/ROD by DTSC is pursuant to the requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986; the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 300; and Chapter 6.8, Division 20, California Health & Safety Code (H&SC).

Findings of Significant Effect on Environment:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has prepared an Initial Study (Attached) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Section 21000 et seq., California Public Resources Code and implementing Guidelines, Section 15000 et seq., Title 14, California Code of Regulations. Based upon this analysis, DTSC has determined that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A mitigated negative declaration is appropriate.

Mitigation Measures: In consultation with the California Department of Fish and Game, DTSC has determined that the following mitigation measures are needed.

1. To reduce impacts to desert tortoise to a less-than-significant level at Site 6, the Navy shall implement the Desert Tortoise Habitat Management Plan.
2. The Navy will provide a designated biologist to monitor on-site construction activity to help avoid the take of individual Mohave Ground Squirrels and to minimize habitat disturbance. The Navy anticipates that the mitigation measures to be implemented for the protection of the Desert Tortoise (described briefly in Mitigation Measure #1) will minimize adverse effects to the additional special status species, such as the Mohave Ground Squirrel, that may be present at Site 6 If a Mohave Ground Squirrel is observed while monitoring site activities, the designated biologist shall stop all activity until the Mohave Ground Squirrel has traveled off the site. If necessary, the

designated biologist shall encourage the Mohave Ground Squirrel to leave the site by hand excavating the burrow. If an active burrow must be excavated, a qualified wildlife biologist will be onsite during excavation activities to relocate any Mohave ground squirrels that are uncovered during excavation. The habitat currently managed by the Navy for the protection of the desert tortoise will have the effect of protecting the Mohave Ground Squirrel.

3. The Navy will conduct surveys for the Burrowing Owl and if present, will avoid or relocate. All construction activities on Site 6 will avoid the nesting season (February 1 through August 31) if there are any active (or suspected active) owl burrows on the site or within a 75 meter buffer zone. Tasks needed to protect burrowing owls and their nests will generally follow the guidance provided by the Burrowing Owl Consortium (1993) and the California Fish and Game (1995), and will be coordinated with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game.

DTSC Branch Chief Signature		Date
Anthony J. Landis, PE	Chief, Northern California Operations Office of Military Facilities	(916) 255-3732
DTSC Branch Chief Name	DTSC Branch Chief Title	Phone #

INITIAL STUDY

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has completed the following Initial Study for this project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (§ 21000 et seq., California Public Resources Code) and implementing Guidelines (§15000 et seq., Title 14, California Code of Regulations).

I. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name: Site 6, T-Range Open Burn Facility

Site Address: Tare Access Road, within the China Lake NAWS North Range approximately 8 miles northeast of the City of Ridgecrest

City: China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station State: CA Zip Code: 93555 County: San Bernardino

Company Contact Person: Mr. Michael Cornell, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southwest Division

Address: 1220 Pacific Highway

City: San Diego State: CA Zip Code: 92132-5181 Phone Number: (619) 532-4208

Project Description:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is proposing to approve the Record of Decision/Remedial Action Plan (ROD/RAP) for Site 6 at the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS). Site 6 is contaminated with propellant, explosive and pyrotechnic wastes (PEP) and metals. The RAP/ROD proposes to implement the Navy's preferred remedial alternative for Site 6 which includes capping the contaminants at Areas 1 and 3 in place using an engineered alternative cap. Soil from existing borrow pits within the boundaries of the China Lake NAWS will be used to construct the cap. The miscellaneous surface debris from the other four areas at Site 6 will be consolidated within the partially open trenches at Areas 1 and 3 prior to capping. Land use controls will be put into place which will specify that no buildings or residences can be constructed at the site, and will also identify the need for maintenance of the cap. It is anticipated that the construction activities will last approximately 8 weeks.

Approval of the RAP/ROD will also amend the existing approved Closure Plan for the Site 6 T-Range Open Burn facility through a class 2 modification for the China Lake NAWS hazardous waste facility permit.

Approval of the RAP/ROD by DTSC is pursuant to the requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986; the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 300; and Chapter 6.8, Division 20, California Health & Safety Code (H&SC).

Project Activities:

Approval would allow the Navy to conduct the following activities:

1. Collect additional sampling data for perchlorate.
2. Consolidate an estimated 4,600 cubic yards of surface debris from throughout Site 6 and place it into the partially open trenches at Areas 1 and 3.
3. If necessary, remove OE waste or material found on site for treatment and/or disposal by the military Explosive Ordnance Disposal team.

4. Construct an engineered alternative cap using material from existing borrow pits within the boundaries of the China Lake NAWS.
5. Implement land use controls to restrict the use of the site and provide for maintenance of the cap.

Background Information. China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) is an active military base located approximately 150 miles north of Los Angeles. China Lake NAWS is located in Kern, Inyo and San Bernardino Counties. China Lake NAWS encompasses approximately 1.1 million acres, and is larger than the state of Rhode Island. Site 6 is located off of Tare Access Road, within the China Lake NAWS North Range approximately 8 miles northeast of the City of Ridgecrest in the San Bernardino County portion of the base.

Site 6 served as an open-burn facility from 1946 to 1991 and was operated by the Ordnance Systems Department at NAWS China Lake. Site 6 covers approximately 35 acres of disturbed ground with six distinct disposal areas (Areas 1 through 6) that include pits, trenches, and aboveground tanks used for open burning of waste. Some of the materials disposed of in the pits and trenches included PEP wastes. The PEP wastes are reported to have contained perchlorate. In mid-1991, PEP treatment was discontinued at Site 6 and was moved to the Burro Canyon open burn/open detonation (OB/OD) facility (also located at China Lake NAWS) which is currently operating under Interim Status.

Environmental investigations began at Site 6 in 1984 with the Initial Assessment Study for NAWS. At that time, records and aerial photographs were reviewed and former site personnel were interviewed to estimate the volume of wastes treated and disposed of at Site 6 and when disposal occurred. A Closure Plan for the Site 6 T-Range Open Burn Facility was submitted to the state by the Navy in 1991. The first step was a preliminary assessment which included a review of aerial photographs and a geophysical survey which was used to compile a map of the six areas. In mid-1994 the Navy and DTSC discussed transferring administration of the Site 6 T-Range Open Burn Facility from the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) to the Comprehensive Environmental Response and Liability Act (CERCLA), while continuing to follow the main components of the 1991 Closure Plan. The agreement between the Navy and DTSC specified that the Closure Plan would be used as a starting point for evaluating remedial alternatives for Site 6, and that if a different remedial alternative was selected, the CERCLA process would be used to modify the Closure Plan.

Environmental investigations continued with an engineering evaluation and cost analysis (EE/CA) in 1997. The EE/CA was never released because work at Site 6 was shifted to a removal site evaluation (RSE) to fulfill the state's request for additional characterization of the site. Most of the chemical data used to characterize Site 6 was collected during the RSE, conducted from 1999 to 2001. A supplemental geophysical survey was conducted during the RSE, followed by trenching to evaluate the locations identified as potential disposal trenches. Waste-filled trenches were located at Areas 1 and 3 of Site 6. No disposal trenches were found at the other four areas, although stained surface soils, waste piles, disturbed soils, ash and metallic debris were present. Surface and subsurface samples were collected and analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs), explosives, metals, cyanide, and uranium isotopes. Some samples contained SVOCs, explosives and cyanide. Analytical data for metals and uranium isotopes were compared with background concentrations, and the metals that exceeded naturally occurring background levels were included in the risk assessments. Additional characterization for perchlorate still remains to be completed as part of the remedial design work for the final remedy. This will include the collection of surface and shallow subsurface (less than 5 feet) soil samples for perchlorate analysis. The samples will be collected with a hand auger. No truck mounted equipment will be used. A single water sample will be collected from the nearest existing water well (known as the Seebee well). No new wells will be installed. The purpose of the perchlorate sampling is to fill a data gap identified in the previous sampling efforts. If perchlorate is detected, the risk analysis will be reevaluated to confirm that the proposed remedy remains protective. The data will be used to refine the design of the engineered alternative cap. If the perchlorate data suggests that the remedy is not protective, or if a significant change to the proposed remedy is indicated, an amendment to the ROD/RAP will be prepared for regulatory agency and public review.

An attempt was made to sample groundwater from five boreholes distributed throughout the site. No groundwater was encountered to a depth of 145 feet below ground surface. Three of the five borings were

terminated in bedrock.

The data collected during the RSE was used to conduct a human health risk assessment (HHRA) to evaluate the possibility for, and effects of, exposure to contaminants at Site 6. Because Site 6 is located on an active military base, the HHRA evaluated the risk to industrial/commercial and construction workers. Based upon the results of the HHRA, the Navy recommended remedial action at Areas 1 and 3. Residential use of Site 6 was not considered in the HHRA, therefore, DTSC will require additional evaluation of potential risks to human health should the land use at Site 6 change.

A Feasibility Study (FS) was conducted for Site 6 in 2003. A screening level-ecological risk assessment (SLERA) was conducted as part of the FS. The SLERA for Site 6 indicated that uncertainty remains regarding the current ecological risks at Site 6. The California Department of Fish and Game recommended that the remedial actions for Site 6 be completed and that additional post-remedial action data be obtained to evaluate whether potential ecological risks present at Site 6 have been reduced to acceptable levels.

The FS for Site 6 evaluated five remedial alternatives for the site:

- Alternative 1: No action
- Alternative 2: Institutional controls
- Alternative 3: Excavation with off-site disposal
- Alternative 4: Excavation with consolidation and on-site disposal
- Alternative 5: Capping in place

The FS compared these alternatives and recommended Alternative 5, capping the contaminants at Areas 1 and 3 in place using an engineered alternative cap. Soil from existing borrow pits within the boundaries of the China Lake NAWS will be used to construct the cap. The miscellaneous surface debris from the other four areas at Site 6 will be consolidated within the partially open trenches at Areas 1 and 3 prior to capping. Land use controls will be put into place which will specify that no buildings or residences can be constructed at the site, and will also identify the need for maintenance of the cap.

II. DISCRETIONARY APPROVAL ACTION BEING CONSIDERED BY DTSC

☐ Initial Permit Issuance	☐ Closure Plan	☐ Removal Action Workplan
☐ Permit Renewal	☐ Regulations	☐ Interim Removal
☒ Permit Modification	☒ Remedial Action Plan	☐ Other (Specify)

Program/ Region Approving Project: Site Mitigation and Brownfields Reuse, Office of Military Facilities, Northern California

DTSC Contact Person: Laurie Racca

Address: 8800 Cal Center Drive

City: Sacramento State: CA Zip Code: 95826 Phone Number: (916) 255-3668

III. ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The boxes checked below identify environmental resources in the following ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING/IMPACT ANALYSIS section found to be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact."

☐ None Identified	☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agricultural Resources
☐ Air Quality	☒ Biological Resources	☐ Cultural Resources
☐ Geology And Soils	☐ Hazards and Hazardous Materials	☐ Hydrology and Water Quality
☐ Land Use and Planning	☐ Mineral Resources	☐ Noise
☐ Population and Housing	☐ Public Services	☐ Recreation
☐ Transportation and Traffic	☐ Utilities and Service Systems	

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

The following pages provide a brief description of the physical environmental resources that exist within the area affected by the proposed project and an analysis of whether or not those resources will be potentially impacted by the proposed project. Preparation of this section follows guidance provided in DTSC's California Environmental Quality Act Initial Study Workbook [Workbook]. A list of references used to support the following discussion and analysis are contained in Attachment A and are referenced within each section below.

Mitigation measures which are made a part of the project (e.g.: permit condition) or which are required under a separate Mitigation Measure Monitoring or Reporting Plan which either avoid or reduce impacts to a level of insignificance are identified in the analysis within each section.

1. Aesthetics

Project activities likely to create an impact:

None. The site is located within an active military base with restricted access. Site 6 consists of six distinct disposal areas (Areas 1 through 6) that include pits, trenches, and aboveground tanks used for open burning of waste. No structures exist on or near site. The project does not involve night work or the construction of facilities with electric lighting. The project site is located greater than 5 miles from the nearest populated area and the nearest highway is over 5 miles from the project site. The project site is not visible from the nearest point on the base property boundary. Additionally, the removal of surface debris and capping of the existing trenches will restore the area to a grade consistent with the original natural topography. This will provide an opportunity for the native plant community to re-establish after the completion of the removal action improving the aesthetics of the site. For this reason, no further analysis of impacts to this resource category is deemed necessary.

Description of Environmental Setting:

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista.

b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings and historic buildings within a state scenic highway.

c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings.

d. Create a new source of substantial light of glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

Specific References (List a, b, c, etc):

a. Final Feasibility Study for Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, November 2004.
b. Final Proposed Plan for Remedial Action at Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, December 2004.
c. Draft Final Record of Decision/Remedial Action Plan, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, November 18, 2005.

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

2. Agricultural Resources

Project activities likely to create an impact:

None. The site is located within an active military base with restricted access, and is characterized by open desert disturbed by previous disposal activities. Site 6 is located within the Ordnance Testing and Evaluation land use management unit of China Lake NAWS. For this reason, no further analysis of impacts to this resource category is deemed necessary.

Description of Environmental Setting:

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use.

b. Conflict with existing zoning or agriculture use, or Williamson Act contract.

c. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural uses.

Specific References (list a, b, c, etc):

a. Final Feasibility Study for Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, November 2004.
b. Final Proposed Plan for Remedial Action at Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, December 2004.
c. Draft Final Record of Decision/Remedial Action Plan, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, November 18, 2005.
d. Final Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Military Operational Increases and Implementation of Associated Comprehensive Land Use and Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans, February 2004

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

3. Air Quality

Project activities likely to create an impact:

- Consolidate surface debris from throughout Site 6 and place it into the partially open trenches at Areas 1 and 3.
- If necessary, removal of OE waste or material found on site which will be managed by the military Explosive Ordnance Disposal team.
- Construct an engineered alternative cap using material soil from existing borrow pits within the boundaries of the China Lake NAWS.

Description of Environmental Setting:

The proposed project is located within San Bernardino County Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD). The entire MDQAMD is located within the Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB). The San Bernardino County portion of China Lake NAWS is in attainment for the Federal ozone standard and is classified as in moderate non-attainment for the Federal PM10 standard. The San Bernardino County portion of China Lake NAWS is a non-attainment

area for the state PM 10, and ozone standards. The northwestern portion of San Bernardino County (including the area in which China Lake Site 6 is located) is designated non-attainment for the state hydrogen sulfide and sulfate standards. The San Bernardino County MDAQMD is responsible for enforcing state and federal air quality standards within the MDAB.

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan.

Excavation and grading activities associated with the project will generate dust particles which will require imposition of control measures required under San Bernardino County MDAQMD Rule 403 (Fugitive Dust Control) of its Rules and Regulations. These controls include the following:

- Taking reasonable precautions to minimize fugitive dust emmisions during grading and other earth movement.
- Cleaning loose dirt from vehicles.
- Covering or containing dirt and debris carried by haul trucks.
- Cleaning dirt from paved roadways.
- Covering soil stockpiles at the end of each shift.
- Maintaining the natural topography to the extent possible during grading and other earth movement.

Compliance with these dust control measures will ensure that the project is consistent with the MDQAMD PM10 Attainment Plan (AP). The district does not regulate air emissions from mobile diesel vehicles which may be used during the consolidation of the debris and construction of the cap. Consequently, such remedial activities would not conflict with the implementation of the MDQAMD Ozone Attainment Plan (AP).

b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation.

Imposition of dust control measures required by the MDAQMD Rule 403 (Fugitive Dust Control) of its Rules and Regulations would ensure that the project would not result in a violation of any state or federal air quality standard, nor contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation.

c. Result in cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors).

Excavation and grading activities associated with the project will generate dust particles. However, imposition of control measures required by the MDAQMD will reduce the amount of dust generated to levels that would not increase the net volume of PM10 in the MDAB. While the MDAQMD does not regulate air emissions from mobile diesel vehicles which may be used during the consolidation of the debris and construction of the cap, such emissions would be short in duration and not anticipated to contribute to a considerable net increase in ozone in the MDAB.

d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

There are no sensitive receptors within the boundary of Site 6 or in the adjacent area of the base. The site is located within an active military base with restricted access. No structures exist on site. The project site is located greater than 5 miles from the nearest populated area. On site visual inspections by the DTSC project manager have confirmed this statement.

e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

The site is located within an active military base with restricted access. No structures exist on site. The project site is located greater than 5 miles from the nearest populated area. On site visual inspections by the DTSC project manager have confirmed this statement.

f. Result in human exposure to Naturally Occurring Asbestos (see also Geology and Soils, f.).

The soils at the site have been classified during previous investigations under the supervision of a Registered Geologist. Site 6 is situated along the northern edge of the Salt Wells Valley and lies on thick aeolian sediments interbedded with alluvial fan deposits that emanate from the Argus Range. Borings at Site 6 penetrated more than 100 feet of poorly stratified, pale yellow to light gray silt with fine sandy silt and fine sand. This deposit lies atop moderately weathered granodiorite bedrock. No naturally occurring asbestos occurs on or near the site. The buried debris on site has been partially excavated during previous sampling and assessment activities and no asbestos containing debris was found. However, health and safety procedures will be implemented to protect workers if any asbestos containing materials are discovered during the removal action.

Specific References (list a, b, c, etc):

a. www.mdaqmd.ca.gov
b. Final Feasibility Study for Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, November 2004.
d. Final Proposed Plan for Remedial Action at Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, December 2004.
e. Draft Final Record of Decision/Remedial Action Plan, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, November 18, 2005.
f. Final Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Military Operational Increases and Implementation of Associated Comprehensive Land Use and Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans, February 2004

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

4. Biological Resources

Project activities likely to create an impact:

- Consolidate surface debris from throughout Site 6 and place it into the partially open trenches at Areas 1 and 3.
- If necessary, removal of OE waste or material found on site which will be managed by the military Explosive Ordnance Disposal team.
- Construct an engineered alternative cap using soil from existing borrow pits within the boundaries of the China Lake NAWS.

Description of Environmental Setting:

Site 6 covers approximately 35 acres of disturbed ground with six distinct disposal areas (Areas 1 through 6) that include pits, trenches, and aboveground tanks used for open burning of waste. Areas 1 through 6 have been disturbed through clearing, burning, grading and other human activities, although there are no station facilities or structures nearby. In between these six areas, the vegetation at Site 6 consists of creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), burro bush (*Ambrosia dumosa*) and cheese bush (*Hymenoclea salsola*).

Approximately 35 species of reptiles and amphibians, 310 species of birds, and 46 species of mammals have been observed at NAWS China Lake, with the greatest diversity of species occurring in wetland and riparian areas. No lakes or surface water exist at Site 6. Several small dry drainages run across the site. These drainages only receive water during significant rainfall events.

Four threatened and endangered species occur at NAWS China Lake: (1) the Mojave tui chub (*Gila bicolor mohavensis*), (2) the desert tortoise (Gopherus *agassizii*), (3) the Inyo California towhee (*Pipilo crissalis eremophilus*), and (4) the Mojave ground squirrel (*Spermophilus mohavensis*). Two of these, the desert tortoise and Mojave ground squirrel, have potential to occur at Site 6. In 1998, the Navy base biologist conducted a survey at Site 6 to assess the potential presence of special-status species on the site. No special-status plant species were identified at Site 6. A representative of the California Department of Fish and Game conducted a site visit on April 21, 2003, and found potential desert tortoise burrows within the areas occupied by undisturbed native vegetation. All actions taken to protect sensitive species will be either conducted or supervised by a qualified biologist who is familiar with the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, and the ecology, behavior and identifying signs of any endangered and sensitive species that may be present at Site 6. The actions will be coordinated with the California Department of Fish and Game and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as necessary.

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The desert tortoise is a federally- and state-listed threatened species. Site 6 and the surrounding area are potential habitat for the desert tortoise. Potential desert tortoise burrows have been observed in the undisturbed habitat areas at Site 6. Approximately 200,000 acres of China Lake NAWS located in the South Range is designated as critical habitat for the desert tortoise. Site 6 is located on the North Range outside of this area. China Lake NAWS has developed a Desert Tortoise Habitat Management Plan (Management Plan) that provides guidelines for on base project review and standard mitigation measures for activities at China Lake NAWS. Formal Consultation on the management Plan with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act resulted in a non-jeopardy biological opinion. The Navy's Management Plan includes measures to minimize the take of desert tortoises as a result of activities conducted on base. To reduce impacts to desert tortoise to a less-than-significant level at Site 6, the Navy shall implement the following mitigation:

MM1 - Desert Tortoise Habitat Management Plan.

- Review of the proposed project by the China Lake Environmental Planning and Management Office.
- Clearly delineating the project site work area by the use of flagging, survey lath or wooden stakes.
- Pre-work site survey to ensure that no desert tortoises are located within the work area.
- Removal of any desert tortoises found within the work area to a safe undisturbed area near the project site.
- Worker education programs and defined operation procedures (this will also include instruction regarding other potential special status species at the site)
- Regular monitoring of project activities by the China Lake Environmental Planning and Management Office.
- Placement of desert tortoise-proof fences around any portion of the project area where the probability of take would be high.
- Placement of desert tortoise-proof fences around any active or usable desert tortoise burrow located adjeacent to or nearby the excavation work area.
- All trash and food items shall be contained in raven-proof containers and removed on a regular basis to reduce the attractiveness of the area to common ravens and other desert tortoise predators.
- All personnel shall check under their vehicles for tortoises prior to moving the vehicle. Only biologists authorized under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife biological opinion will be allowed to move desert tortoises.

The China Lake Environmental Planning and Management Office will be responsible for implementation of MM1.

The consolidation and capping activities proposed for the site will temporarily disturb potential habitat for the desert tortoise. The area to be remediated was previously disturbed, and the completed project will restore the area to a grade consistent with the original natural topography. This will provide an opportunity for the native plant community to re-establish after the completion of the removal action improving the existing habitat. Compliance with the Desert Tortoise Management Plan will ensure that the project minimizes any incidental taking of desert tortoises, is consistent with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife biological opinion, and will result in a less than significant temporary disturbance of potential desert tortoise habitat.

The Mohave Ground Squirrel (*Spermophilus mohavensis*) is state-listed as threatened and considered a federal species of concern. It inhabits desert scrub and Joshua tree woodlands. Site 6 and the surrounding area are potential habitat for the Mohave ground squirrel. Excavation and fill activities associated with the proposed project will temporarily disturb the potential habitat for Mohave ground squirrel. To reduce impacts to Mohave ground squirrel to a less-than-significant level, the Navy will implement the following mitigation.

MM2 - Monitor construction activities for the Mohave Ground Squirrel, and if present avoid or relocate.

The Navy will provide a designated biologist to monitor on-site construction activity to help avoid the take of individual animals and to minimize habitat disturbance. The resumes of the on-site biologists have been submitted by the Navy to the Department of Fish and Game for review. The Navy anticipates that the mitigation measures to be implemented for the protection of the Desert Tortoise (described briefly in Mitigation Measure #1) will minimize adverse effects to the additional special status species, such as the

Mohave Ground Squirrel, that may be present at Site 6. The desert tortoise protection measure that calls for the education of construction workers will specifically include training on the biology and protection of MGS in addition to that of desert tortoise. If a Mohave Ground Squirrel is observed while monitoring site activities, the designated biologist shall stop all activity until the Mohave Ground Squirrel has traveled off the site. If necessary, the designated biologist shall encourage the Mohave Ground Squirrel to leave the site by hand excavating the burrow. If the project takes place during the Mohave Ground Squirrel active season, any Mohave Ground Squirrel found during digging will be placed in a burrow constructed nearby. The habitat currently managed by the Navy for the protection of the desert tortoise will have the effect of protecting the Mohave Ground Squirrel.

The China Lake Environmental Planning and Management Office will be responsible for implementation of MM2.

The burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) is also a California and federal species of special concern. They utilize desert scrub habitats and may occur at Site 6. Impacts to these species could occur if individuals are nesting on or adjacent to the construction area. The direct mortality of owls can be mitigated to a less-than-significant level through implementation of construction monitoring and standard mitigation guidelines for protecting burrowing owls. These mitigation measures include:

MM3 – Conduct surveys for the burrowing owl and if present, avoid or relocate.

Activities needed to protect burrowing owls and their nests will generally follow the guidance provided by the Burrowing Owl Consortium (1993) and the California Fish and Game (1995). Details will be provided in the remedial design (RD) document, and are generally summarized below:

1. Previous surveys at Site 6 have determined that the area is potential burrowing owl habitat.

2. A burrow/owl survey will be conducted to determine if the habitat at Site 6 is occupied by burrowing owls. The surveys will cover any area to be disturbed under the selected remedy and a 150-meter buffer zone by walking transects spaced at 30 meters (or less where terrain is uneven or vegetation limits the view of potential burrows, owls or owl signs). The locations of active and potential burrows will be mapped during the survey.

3. If burrows or burrowing owls are found during the burrow survey, census and mapping surveys will be conducted. The intent of the surveys is to fully document the location of all singles and pairs of burrowing owls in the project area during the length of the breeding season. At least one survey will be conducted during the peak of the breeding season (April 15 to July 15). The surveys will document signs of burrow occupation, such as the presence of scat and prey remains, and tracks in freshly dusted soil placed immediately in front of the burrow entrance. Burrow entrances will be observed during the preferred dawn and dusk survey periods as well at other times of the day. Four separate surveys are expected to be necessary to fully document the locations of burrowing owls in the project area. The actual number of surveys will be determined by the qualified biologist.

4. Survey results will be included in the documentation leading up to the Remedial Action. Site 6 will require sampling for perchlorate before the Remedial Design is completed, so survey methods and all results up to that time will be documented in the sampling work plan. Completed surveys and proposed relocation activities will be documented in the Remedial Design report.

As a result of the surveys, if Burrowing Owls are documented on site, the following mitigation measures to avoid or minimize take of burrowing owls and their nests include:

1. All construction activities on Site 6 will avoid the nesting season (February 1 through August 31) if there are any active (or suspected active) owl burrows on the site or within a 75 meter buffer zone.

2. Suitable and extensive foraging habitat is currently available in surrounding areas. Setting aside additional habitat outside the project site is not required.

3. If necessary, passive relocation methods will be attempted and relocation success monitoring will be completed in accordance with the protocols. Passive relocation methods will be the preferred method. All relocation activities will be coordinated with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the DFG.

4. Occupied (non-breeding) burrows within the project site that cannot be avoided will be collapsed after the owls have been relocated. Usable burrows in the project area will be collapsed after surveys ensure that the burrows are not being utilized by sensitive or protected species.

5. Construction of artificial burrows will be completed if suitable usable burrows are not available nearby (outside the buffer zone).

6. A final survey of the site will occur within 7 days before project initiation in accordance with NAWS China Lake's standard survey protocol in areas potentially supporting sensitive or listed species.

7. All mitigation activities will be documented in the remedial action implementation report. This report will be submitted to the DTSC once the remedial action is completed.

The China Lake Environmental Planning and Management Office will be responsible for implementation of MM3.

Le Conte's thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), and California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*) are also California species of special concern. All of these species except the California horned lark are also federal species of concern. They utilize desert scrub habitats and may occur at Site 6. Impacts to these species could occur if individuals are nesting on or adjacent to the construction area. The direct mortality of shrikes, and thrashers can be mitigated to a less-than-significant level through implementation of construction monitoring being conducted to mitigate impacts to the desert tortoise, Mojave ground squirrel, and burrowing owl (mitigation measures 1, 2 and 3 described above). Given the large amount of open space with nesting and foraging habitat at China Lake NAWS and the small area of desert scrub that will be disturbed by the proposed project, the loss of potential foraging habitat is not considered a significant impact. As such, no mitigation is required for the loss of potential nesting or foraging habitat.

Shining milkvetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus* var *micans*) is considered to be "rare, threatened, or endangered in California" (List 1B) by the California Native Plant Society. This meets the definition or rare or endangered under the California Environmental Quality Act. This plant species inhabits desert scrub and has potential to occur at Site 6. However, the area that will be disturbed by the proposed project is small, was previously disturbed by the disposal of waste, and the completed project will restore the area to a grade consistent with the original natural topography. This will provide an opportunity for the native plant community to re-establish after the completion of the removal action. Therefore the potential loss of individual shining milkvetch plants is not considered a significant impact.

b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

There would be no impacts to riparian or other sensitive habitats because they are not present at Site 6. Site 6 is characterized by creosote bush desert scrub habitat.

c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.

There would be no impacts because wetlands are not present at Site 6.

d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.

There would be no impacts to native resident or migratory wildlife species, wildlife corridors, or wildlife nurseries because the area affected is small and consists of common desert saltbush scrub habitat. Additionally, wildlife nurseries are not known to be present at Site 6.

e. Conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.

The site is an active military base with an established Desert Tortoise Habitat Management Plan. The proposed project will comply with the requirements of the Desert Tortoise Habitat Management Plan.

f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

The site is an active military base with an established Desert Tortoise Habitat Management Plan. The proposed project will comply with the requirements of the Desert Tortoise Habitat Management Plan. The project will also comply with China Lake's Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan.

Specific References (list a, b, c, etc):

a. Final Removal Site Evaluation Repot for Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, November 2001.
b. Final Feasibility Study for Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, November 2004.
c. Draft Final Record of Decision/Remedial Action Plan, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, November 18, 2005.
d. Final Proposed Plan for Remedial Action at Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, December 2004.
e. Final Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Military Operational Increases and Implementation of Associated Comprehensive Land Use and Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans, February 2004
f. Personal Communication, Victoria Lake, Department of Fish and Game, December 2004.
g. U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Biological Opinion, June 1995.

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☒ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

5. Cultural Resources

Project activities likely to create an impact:

- Consolidate surface debris from throughout Site 6 and place it into the partially open trenches at Areas 1 and 3.
- If necessary, removal of OE waste or material found on site which will be managed by the military Explosive Ordnance Disposal team.
- Construct an engineered alternative cap using material soil from existing borrow pits within the boundaries of the China Lake NAWS.

Description of Environmental Setting:

Site 6 is located in an open desert area that was previously disturbed by disposal activities. No structures exist on site. There are no unique features or structures on the site.

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in 15064.5.

There are no facilities on the site which historically, or currently, are on the California Register of Historical Resources. In addition, there are no locally designated historical resources located on the site. The nearest known historical resource to the project area is the Salt Wells Pilot Plant historic district (a National Register Eligible Site and District) located approximately 3 miles south-southwest of the project site.

b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource pursuant to 15064.5.

There are no known archeological resources at the site. During previous investigative activities no archeological or cultural resources were observed.

c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.

There are no paleontological resources or unique geologic features at the site.

d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

There are no human remains at the site.

Specific References (list a, b, c, etc):

a. Personal Communication, James McDonald, Environmental Planning & Management Department, Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, September 2004.
b. Final Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Military Operational Increases and Implementation of Associated Comprehensive Land Use and Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans, February 2004.
c. Final Feasibility Study for Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, November 2004.

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

6. Geology and Soils

Project activities likely to create an impact:

- Consolidate surface debris from throughout Site 6 and place it into the partially open trenches at Areas 1 and 3.
- If necessary, removal of OE waste or material found on site which will be managed by the military Explosive Ordnance Disposal team.
- Construct an engineered alternative cap using material soil from existing borrow pits within the boundaries of the China Lake NAWS.

Description of Environmental Setting:

The soils at the site have been classified during previous investigations under the supervision of a Registered Geologist. Site 6 is situated along the northern edge of the Salt Wells Valley and lies on thick aeolian sediments interbedded with alluvial fan deposits that emanate from the Argus Range. Borings at Site 6 penetrated more than 100 feet of poorly stratified, pale yellow to light gray silt with fine sandy silt and fine sand. This deposit lies atop moderately weathered granodiorite bedrock. No naturally occurring asbestos occurs on or near the site. However, health and safety procedures will be implemented to protect workers if any asbestos containing materials are discovered during the remedial action. No faults are located on site. The debris on site has been partially excavated during previous sampling and assessment activities and no asbestos containing soil, rock or debris was found.

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

- Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault. (Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42).

There are no structures on site. Health and safety procedures will be implemented to protect workers at the site during the consolidation of debris and construction of the cap on site.

- Strong seismic ground shaking.

  The site topography slopes gently without steep areas which would be prone to failure during strong ground shaking. There are no structures on site, therefore injury from the collapse or damage to a structure is not a concern. Health and safety procedures will be implemented to protect workers at the site.

- Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction.

  See previous response.

- Landslides.

  See previous response.

b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil.

   See preceding response. Also, any removed soil will be backfilled with clean material to grade.

c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse.

   See responses to a. and b. above.

d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property.

   Not applicable to this project because no structures are located on site, and a land use control will be implemented to prevent construction of structures on the site in the future.

e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of water.

   Not applicable to this project because no septic system or sewers are located on site, and none will be constructed as part of the proposed action.

f. Be located in an area containing naturally occurring asbestos (see also Air Quality, f.).

   The soils at the site have been classified during previous investigations under the supervision of a Registered Geologist. Site 6 is situated along the northern edge of the Salt Wells Valley and lies on thick aeolian sediments interbedded with alluvial fan deposits that emanate from the Argus Range. Borings at Site 6 penetrated more than 100 feet of poorly stratified, pale yellow to light gray silt with fine sandy silt and fine sand. This deposit lies atop moderately weathered granodiorite bedrock. No naturally occurring asbestos occurs on or near the site. Additionally, health and safety procedures will be implemented to protect workers from exposure to any asbestos containing debris which may be found during removal

Specific References (list a, b, c, etc):

a. Final Removal Site Evaluation Repot for Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, November 2001.
b. Final Feasibility Study for Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, November 2004.
c. Final Proposed Plan for Remedial Action at Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, December 2004.
d. Draft Final Record of Decision/Remedial Action Plan, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, November 18, 2005.

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

7. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Project activities likely to create an impact:

- Consolidate surface debris from throughout Site 6 and place it into the partially open trenches at Areas 1 and 3.
- If necessary, removal of OE waste or material found on site which will be managed by the military Explosive Ordnance Disposal team.
- Construct an engineered alternative cap using material soil from existing borrow pits within the boundaries of the China Lake NAWS.
- Collect soil samples for perchlorate and one groundwater sample from the nearest well for perchlorate analysis.

Description of Environmental Setting:

Site 6 served as an open-burn facility from 1946 to 1991 and was operated by the Ordnance Systems Department at NAWS China Lake. Site 6 covers approximately 35 acres of disturbed ground with six distinct disposal areas (Areas 1 through 6) that include pits, trenches, and aboveground tanks used for open burning of waste. Some of the materials disposed of in the pits and trenches included propellant, explosive and pyrotechnic wastes (PEP). The PEP wastes are reported to have contained perchlorate.

During several environmental investigations, waste-filled trenches were located at Areas 1 and 3 of Site 6. No disposal trenches were found at the other four areas, although stained surface soils, waste piles, disturbed soils, ash and metallic debris were present. Surface and subsurface samples were collected and analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs), explosives, metals, cyanide, and uranium isotopes. Some samples contained SVOCs, explosives and cyanide. Analytical data for metals and uranium isotopes were compared with background concentrations, and the metals that exceeded naturally occurring background levels were included in the risk assessments. The human health risks for Site 6 were calculated for a current and future industrial worker and a future construction worker. The risks were calculated for each individual disposal area and for the site as a whole. The sitewide risks were below a 1E-06 (1 in a million) cancer risk and below a non-cancer hazard index of 1. The estimated cancer risk for industrial workers at Area 1 was at 1E-06, and at Area 3 at 4E-06 which is above the level considered acceptable. The non-cancer hazard index for each individual area was less than 1. Risks to residential receptors was not evaluated. Therefore, land use restrictions prohibiting any future residential use of the site will be a required.

Additional characterization for perchlorate still remains to be completed as part of the remedial design work for the final remedy. This will include the collection of surface and shallow subsurface (less than 5 feet) soil samples for perchlorate analysis. The samples will be collected with a hand auger. No truck mounted equipment will be used. A single water sample will be collected from the nearest existing water well (known as the Seebee well). No new wells will be installed. The purpose of the perchlorate sampling is to fill a data gap identified in the previous sampling efforts. If perchlorate is detected, the risk analysis will be reevaluated to confirm that the proposed remedy remains protective. The data will be used to refine the design of the engineered alternative cap. If the perchlorate data suggests that the remedy is not protective, or if a significant change to the proposed remedy is indicated, an amendment to the ROD/RAP and the associated environmental analysis will be prepared for regulatory agency and public review.

The closest inhabited Navy facilities to Site 6 are located within the China Lake base boundaries approximately 3 miles south-southwest of the site. The nearest civilian community is the City of Ridgecreast located approximately 8 miles southwest of Site 6.

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment throughout the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials.

There would be no impacts because all activities would be conducted following procedures established in an approved health and safety plan, the perchlorate sampling and analysis plan, and the remedial design. These

documents will be prepared by the Navy and submitted for regulatory agency review and public comment. All vehicles will also be inspected for excess soil, dust and debris prior to departure. If excess soil, dust or debris is found during inspection, the vehicle will be decontaminated prior to departure. Military personnel will be responsible for the disposal of any scrap OE or UXO material found on site. If necessary, OE clearance and monitoring will be implemented by the qualified military UXO team and will follow appropriate field procedures pertaining to UXO detection, excavation oversight and management of disposal activities.

No soil or debris will be removed from Site 6. Consolidation of the surface debris and stained soil from various locations at Site 6 into the existing open trenches at the site does not constitute "placement into a land disposal unit" under RCRA and therefore does not trigger RCRA land disposal restrictions. Leaving the contaminants in place at Site 6 also does not trigger RCRA land disposal restrictions because "placement into a land disposal unit" will not occur. Additionally, the proposed remedy will reduce the potential for exposure to or migration of contamination by construction of an engineered alternative cap. This remedy will, upon completion, be sufficient to protect human health and the environment. The cap will prevent contact with the debris and contaminants, and will minimize water movement through the contaminated media. No groundwater was encountered to a depth of 145 feet below ground surface in five borings advanced at the site. No surface water is present at the site. Land use controls will be established to ensure that the remedy remains protective for current and potential future land uses.

b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment.

See preceding response.

c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.

There would be no impacts because no school exists within ¼ mile of the proposed project.

d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to public or the environment.

China Lake NAWS is on the State of California Cortese List; however, there would be no impacts because the proposed project will reduce potential hazards to the public and the environment.

e. Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

There would be no impacts because there are no known adopted emergency response or evacuation plans that could be affected by the project. In addition, the proposed project is located on an active military base, in an uninhabited area with easy access to a highway and is of a short duration (less than 30 days).

Specific References (list a, b, c, etc):

a. Final Removal Site Evaluation Repot for Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, November 2001.
b. Final Feasibility Study for Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, November 2004.
c. Final Proposed Plan for Remedial Action at Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, December 2004.
d. Draft Final Record of Decision/Remedial Action Plan, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, November 18, 2005.

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

8. Hydrology and Water Quality

Project activities likely to create an impact:

None. This project will not negatively impact surface water quality or change surface water flow patterns. There are no surface water bodies (i.e. creeks, rivers, etc.) or storm drains within the disposal areas. This project proposes to consolidate surface debris and contaminated soil into to existing partially open trenches and cover the trenches with native soil from the site in an engineered cap.

Description of Environmental Setting:

Site 6 is located the Mojave Desert within the Salt Wells Valley and has a semi arid climate that results from the rain shadow created by the Sierra Nevada. Groundwater is found in three potential water bearing zones within the Salt Wells Valley: a shallow alluvial zone, a weathered bedrock zone, and an unweathered bedrock zone. No groundwater was encountered to a depth of 145 feet below ground surface in five borings advanced at the site. Three of the five borings were terminated in bedrock. No surface water is present at the site. One well is located approximately 2,000 feet south of Site 6. This well was installed by Navy Construction Battalion personnel during a well drilling class and is not used for drinking water. The nearest drinking water wells are at least 5 miles away. Since this project will not negatively impact surface water quality or change surface water flow patterns, no groundwater is present beneath the site, and the project will reduce the potential for exposure or migration of contamination by construction of an alternative engineered cap, no further analysis is necessary.

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.

b. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficient in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted).

c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off-site.

d. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or off-site.

e. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.

f. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality.

g. Place within a 100-flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows.

h. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam.

i. Inundation by sieche, tsunami or mudflow.

Specific References (list a, b, c, etc):

a. Final Removal Site Evaluation Repot for Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, November 2001.
b. Final Feasibility Study for Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, November 2004.
c. Final Proposed Plan for Remedial Action at Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, December 2004.
d. Draft Basewide Hydrogeologic Characterization Summary Report, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, May 2003.

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

9. Land Use and Planning

Project activities likely to create an impact:

A land use restriction will be implemented for Site 6 upon completion of the engineered alternative cap.

Description of Environmental Setting:

Site 6 is located within the Ordnance Test and Evaluation land use management area at China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station (an active military facility). The proposed land use controls are consistent with the current and anticipated future military/industrial use of the site. Additionally, the land use controls are an integral part of the remedial action and will be recorded in the Record of Decision and the China Lake Land Use Management Plan, with copies provided to the appropriate local planning and building departments as required. This notification will be done formally with an explanation letter, a copy of the Land Use Covenant, and a contact person for both DTSC and the Navy. The required notifications will be provided to the City of Ridgecrest, the Bureau of Land Management, and San Bernardino County. This notification requirement is in addition to DTSC's requirement to maintain a list of all deed restrictions and post the list on the DTSC website (Health and Safety Code Section 25220 (f)). The land use controls cannot be removed from Site 6 without a change in the remedial action and a formal legal modification of the Record of Decision which must be authorized by DTSC.

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.

The land use restriction imposed as part of the project will not change the land use of the site and is consistent with the current land use.

b. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan.

The proposed project incorporates the Desert Tortoise Habitat Management Plan and will comply with China Lake's Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan and therefore, will not conflict with any habitat or natural community conservation plan.

Specific References (list a, b, c, etc):

a. Final Feasibility Study for Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, November 2004.
b. Final Proposed Plan for Remedial Action at Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, December 2004.
c. Final Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Military Operational Increases and Implementation of Associated Comprehensive Land Use and Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans, February 2004

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

10. Mineral Resources

Project activities likely to create an impact:

None. Site 6 is located within an active military base and was used as a disposal site from 1946 to 1991. There are no known minerals of value present at the site. Consequently, no further analysis of impacts is necessary.

Description of Environmental Setting:

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state.

b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan.

Specific References (list a, b, c, etc):

a. Mineral Deposits and Mineral Potential of the China Lake Complex of the Naval Weapons Center, China Lake, California, December 1983.
b. Final Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Military Operational Increases and Implementation of Associated Comprehensive Land Use and Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans, February 2004.
c. Final Feasibility Study for Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, November 2004.

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

11. Noise

Project activities likely to create an impact:

None. The closest community to the site is the City of Ridgecrest, located 8 miles away from Site 6. All remedial activities will be confined to Site 6. Military personnel will be responsible for the disposal of any scrap OE or UXO material found on site. OE clearance and monitoring will be implemented by the qualified military UXO team and will follow appropriate field procedures pertaining to UXO detection, excavation oversight and management of disposal activities. Consequently, no further analysis of impacts is necessary.

Description of Environmental Setting:

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies.

b. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundbourne vibration or groundbourne noise levels.

c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity above levels existing without the project.

d. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project.

Specific References (a, b, c, etc):

a. Final Feasibility Study for Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, November 2004.
b. Final Proposed Plan for Remedial Action at Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, December 2004.
c. Final Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Military Operational Increases and Implementation of Associated Comprehensive Land Use and Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans, February 2004

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

12. Population and Housing

Project activities likely to create an impact:

None. No housing exists on or within 5 miles of Site 6, and the surrounding land is an active military base. The project consists of a limited duration and will have no impact on local population or housing. Consequently, no further analysis of impacts is necessary.

Description of Environmental Setting:

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Induce substantial population growth in area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure).

b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

Specific References (list a, b, c, etc):

a. Final Feasibility Study for Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, November 2004.
b. Final Proposed Plan for Remedial Action at Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, December 2004.
c. Final Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Military Operational Increases and Implementation of Associated Comprehensive Land Use and Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans, February 2004

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

13. Public Services

Project activities likely to create an impact:

None. There are no electrical, sewer or water utilities on site. There are no structures on site. Site 6 houses no people and does not support off site public services. Also, the project does not create a demand for public services. Consequently, no further analysis of impacts is necessary.

Description of Environmental Setting:

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered government facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the following public services:

- Fire protection
- Police protection
- Schools
- Parks
- Other public facilities

Specific References (list a, b, c, etc):

a. Final Feasibility Study for Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, November 2004.
b. Final Proposed Plan for Remedial Action at Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, December 2004.

c. Final Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Military Operational Increases and Implementation of Associated Comprehensive Land Use and Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans, February 2004

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

14. Recreation

Project activities likely to create an impact:

None. Site 6 is located within a restricted access area of an active military base and does not support any recreational facilities. Consequently, no further analysis of impacts is necessary.

Description of Environmental Setting:

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.

b. Include recreational facilities or require construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

Specific References (list a, b, c, etc):

a. Final Feasibility Study for Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, November 2004.
b. Final Proposed Plan for Remedial Action at Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, December 2004.
c. Final Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Military Operational Increases and Implementation of Associated Comprehensive Land Use and Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans, February 2004

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

15. Transportation and Traffic

Project activities likely to create an impact:

None. There would be no impacts because all activities will be conducted at Site 6 within a remote portion of a restricted access military facility. No soil or debris will be removed from Site 6 or transported off site. Imported soil will be obtained from an existing borrow pit within the China Lake facility resulting in no increase of the volume of traffic off the facility. Transportation of equipment to and from the site will occur over designated truck routes, and will not result in an increase the volume of traffic on existing roadways. The project does not entail construction of transportation systems. Therefore, no further analysis is necessary.

Description of Environmental Setting:

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections).

b. Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the country congestion management agency for designated roads or highway.

c. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment).

d. Result in inadequate emergency access.

e. Result in inadequate parking capacity.

f. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks).

Specific References (list a, b, c, etc):

a. Final Feasibility Study for Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, November 2004.
b. Final Proposed Plan for Remedial Action at Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, December 2004.
c. Final Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Military Operational Increases and Implementation of Associated Comprehensive Land Use and Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans, February 2004

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

16. Utilities and Service Systems

Project activities likely to create an impact:

None. There are no utilities at Site 6. The project will not create public demand for utilities. Consequently, no further analysis of impacts is necessary.

Description of Environmental Setting:

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board.

b. Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects.

c. Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects.

d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed.

e. Result in determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the projects projected demand in addition to the providers existing commitments.

f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the projects solid waste disposal needs.

g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

Specific References (list a, b, c, etc):

a. Final Feasibility Study for Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, November 2004.
b. Final Proposed Plan for Remedial Action at Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, December 2004.

c. Final Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Military Operational Increases and Implementation of Associated Comprehensive Land Use and Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans, February 2004

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

17. Mandatory Findings of Significance

Analysis of Potential Impacts. Describe to what extent project activities would:

a. Have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.

Compliance with the Mitigation Measures described in Section 4, Biological Resources, of this document will result in a less than significant temporary disturbance of special status species potentially located on the site.

b. Have impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable. "Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of an individual project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.

There would be no impacts because the project is of a limited scope and duration and is not linked to any current or future projects.

c. Have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

There will be no impacts because the project is remotely located on an active military base, will reduce the potential for migration of contamination by construction of an alternative engineered cap to limit the exposure to contaminants by humans and the environment

Specific References (list a, b, c, etc):

Findings of Significance:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☒ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

V. FINDING OF DE MINIMIS IMPACT TO FISH, WILDLIFE AND HABITAT ***(Optional)***

Prepared only if a Finding of De Minimis Impact to fish, wildlife and habitat is proposed in lieu of payment of the Department of Fish and Game Notice of Determination filing fee required pursuant to section 711.4 of the Fish and Game Code.

Instructions

A finding of "no potential adverse effect" must be made to satisfy the requirements for the Finding of De Minimis Impact as required by title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 753.5. "No potential adverse effect" is a higher standard than

"no significant impact" and the information requested to provide substantial evidence in support of a "no potential adverse effect" is not identical in either its standard or content to that in other parts of the Initial Study.

In the *Explanation and Supporting Evidence* section below, provide substantial evidence as to how the project will have **no potential adverse effect** on the following resources:

a) Riparian land, rivers, streams, watercourse, and wetlands under state and federal jurisdiction.

b) Native and non-native plant life and the soil required to sustain habitat for fish and wildlife.

c) Rare and unique plant life and ecological community's dependent on plant life.

d) Listed threatened and endangered plant and animals and the habitat in which they are believed to reside.

e) All species of plant or animals as listed as protected or identified for special management in the Fish and Game Code, the Public Resources Code, the Water Code, or regulation adopted there under.

f) All marine and terrestrial species subject to the jurisdiction of the Department of Fish and Game and the ecological communities in which they reside.

g) All air and water resources the degradation of which will individually or cumulatively result in a loss of biological diversity among the plants and animals residing in that air and water.

Explanation and Supporting Evidence

(Note: *Relevant portions of the Initial Study may be referenced where appropriate)*

Finding

VI. DETERMINATION OF APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT

On the basis of this Initial Study:

☐ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☒ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED DECLARATION will be prepared.

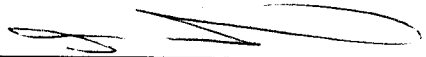
☐ I find that the proposed project MAY HAVE a significant effect on the environment. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT will be prepared.

DTSC Project Manager Signature — 6/8/2006 Date

Laurie Racca — DTSC Project Manager Name

Engineering Geologist — DTSC Project Manager Title

(916) 255-3668 — Phone #



DTSC Branch/Unit Chief Signature — 6/12/2006 Date

Donn Diebert	Unit Chief, Open Base Navy and FUDS	(916) 255-3728
DTSC Branch/Unit Chief Name	DTSC Branch/Unit Chief Title	Phone #

ATTACHMENT A

INITIAL STUDY REFERENCE LIST

For

Site 6, T-Range Open Burn Facility
(Project Name)

Mineral Deposits and Mineral Potential of the China Lake Complex of the Naval Weapons Center, China Lake, California, December 1983

U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Biological Opinion, June 1995.

Final Removal Site Evaluation Repot for Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, November 2001.

Draft Basewide Hydrogeologic Characterization Summary Report, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, May 2003

Final Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Military Operational Increases and Implementation of Associated Comprehensive Land Use and Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans, February 2004.

Personal Communication, James McDonald, Environmental Planning & Management Department, Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, September 2004.

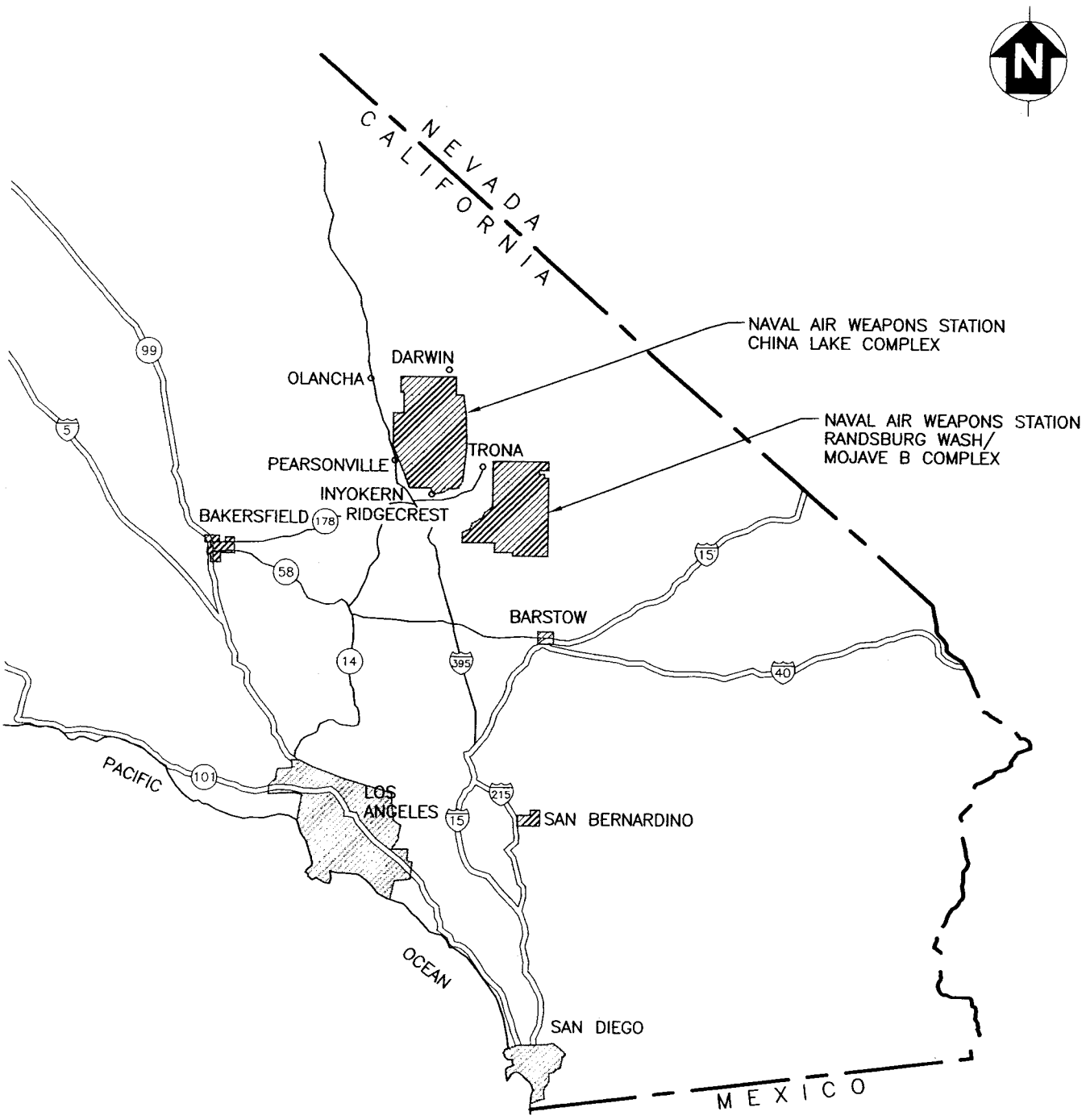
Final Feasibility Study for Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, November 2004.

Final Proposed Plan for Remedial Action at Site 6, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, December 2004.

Draft Final Record of Decision/Remedial Action Plan, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California, November 18, 2005.

Personal Communication, Victoria Lake, Department of Fish and Game, December 2004.

www.mdaqmd.ca.gov



SulTech A Joint Venture of Sullivan Consulting Group and Tetra Tech EM Inc.

NAWS CHINA LAKE, CALIFORNIA
U.S. Navy, NFEC, Southwest Division, San Diego, California

FIGURE 1
FACILITY LOCATION MAP

Draft Final Record of Decision/Remedial Action Plan
DS.B029.14155

30 0 30 60
SCALE: 1" = 60 MILES

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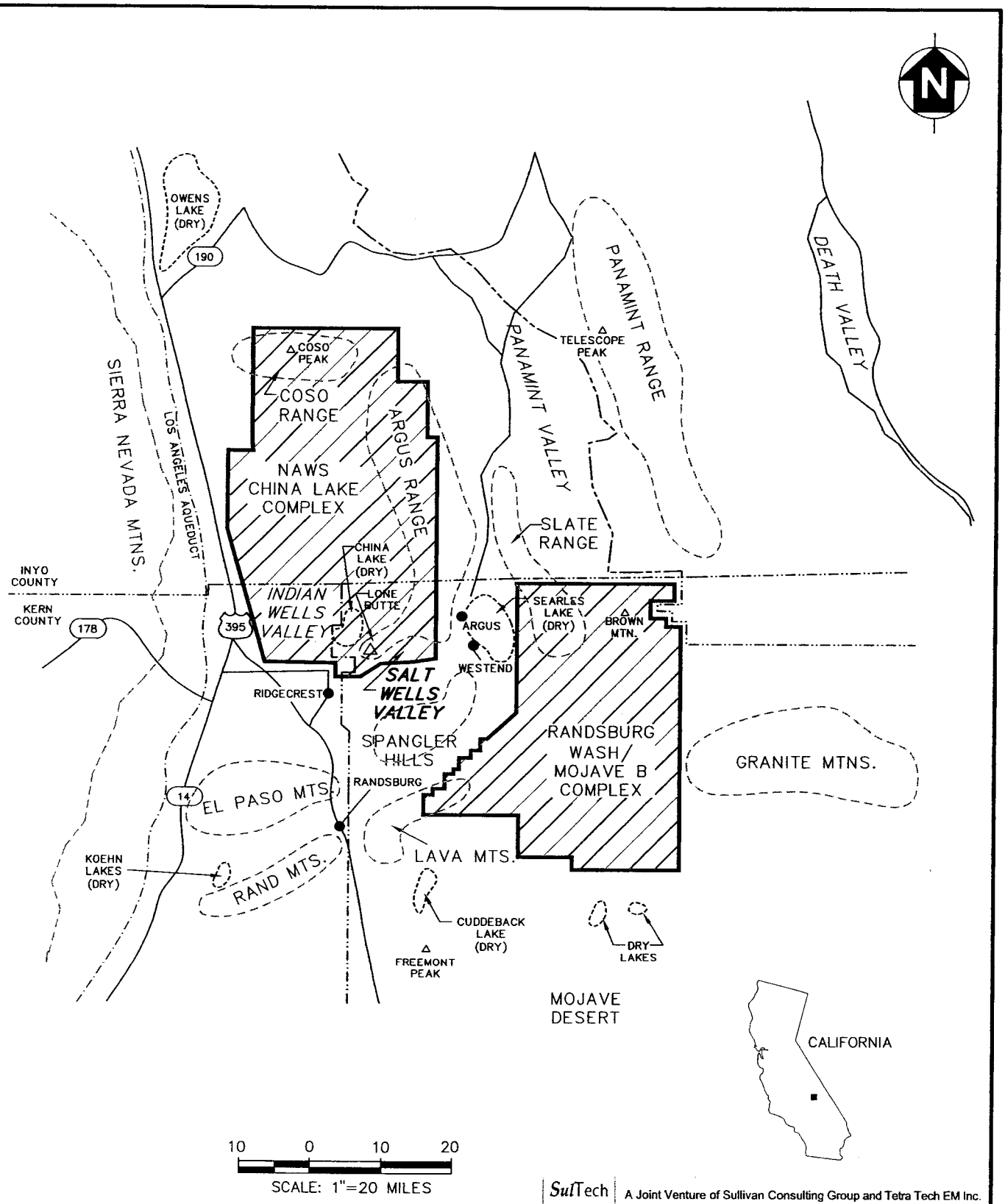

SulTech A Joint Venture of Sullivan Consulting Group and Tetra Tech EM Inc.

NAWS CHINA LAKE, CALIFORNIA
U.S. Navy, NFEC, Southwest Division, San Diego, California

FIGURE 2
PHYSIOGRAPHIC FEATURES OF NAWS CHINA LAKE AREA

Draft Final Record of Decision/Remedial Action Plan
DS.B029.14155

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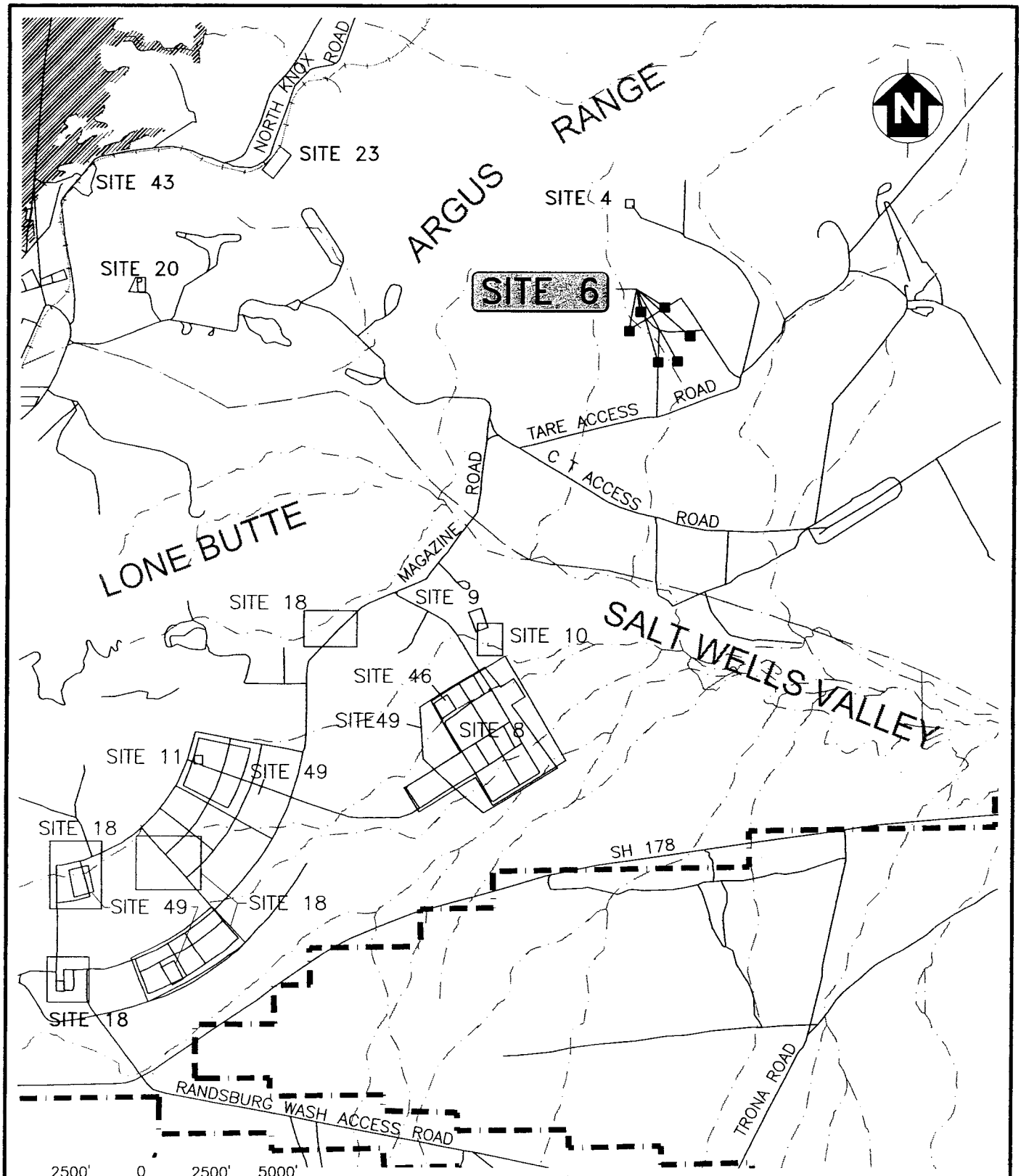

SulTech A Joint Venture of Sullivan Consulting Group and Tetra Tech EM Inc.

NAWS CHINA LAKE, CALIFORNIA
U.S. Navy, NFEC, Southwest Division, San Diego, California

FIGURE 3
SITE LOCATION MAP

Draft Final Record of Decision/Remedial Action Plan
DS.B029.14155

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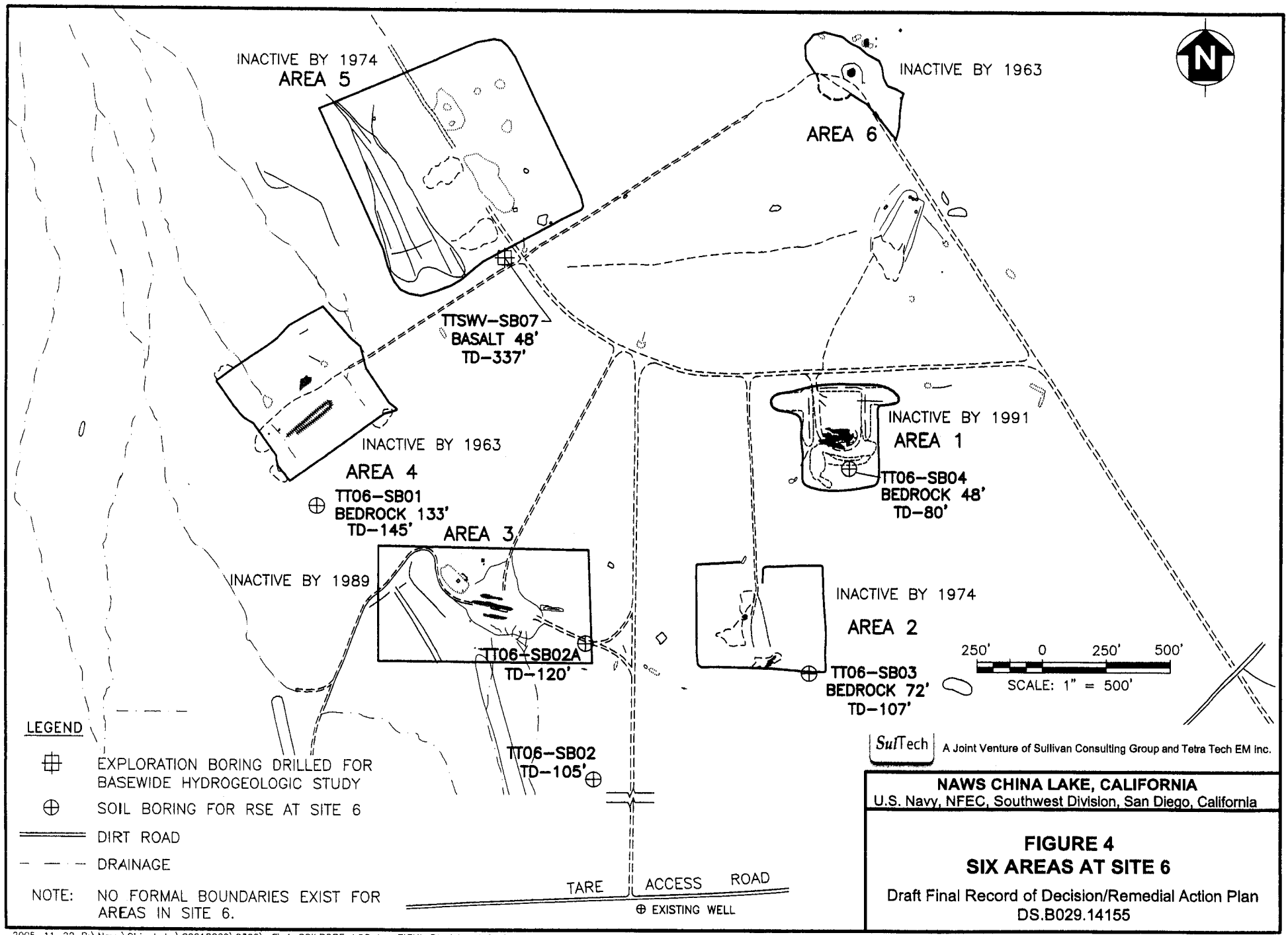
INACTIVE BY 1974
AREA 5
INACTIVE BY 1963
AREA 6
TTSWV-SB07
BASALT 48'
TD-337'
INACTIVE BY 1991
AREA 1
TT06-SB04
BEDROCK 48'
TD-80'
INACTIVE BY 1963
AREA 4
TT06-SB01
BEDROCK 133'
TD-145'
AREA 3
INACTIVE BY 1989
TT06-SB02A
TD-120'
INACTIVE BY 1974
AREA 2
TT06-SB03
BEDROCK 72'
TD-107'
TT06-SB02
TD-105'
250' 0 250' 500'
SCALE: 1" = 500'
LEGEND
EXPLORATION BORING DRILLED FOR BASEWIDE HYDROGEOLOGIC STUDY
SOIL BORING FOR RSE AT SITE 6
DIRT ROAD
DRAINAGE
NOTE: NO FORMAL BOUNDARIES EXIST FOR AREAS IN SITE 6.
TARE ACCESS ROAD
EXISTING WELL
SulTech
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NAWS CHINA LAKE, CALIFORNIA
U.S. Navy, NFEC, Southwest Division, San Diego, California
FIGURE 4
SIX AREAS AT SITE 6
Draft Final Record of Decision/Remedial Action Plan
DS.B029.14155
2005-11-22 R:\Navy\ChinaLake\G9018029\0302\ Fig4_SOILBORE_LOC.dwg TtEMI-SA deborah.ford